

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council

PUBLIC COMMENT

*PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION CLEARLY

Name: Angel Tomas Organization: Lobster Fishing MAN

Email: [REDACTED]

If you would like to be added to the marine zoning and regulatory review email updates, please indicate your choice below:

Yes, add me to the email list No, do not add me to the email list

TOPIC TO BE ADDRESSED

help us to continue fishing

PUBLIC COMMENT

Here in key Largo.
We watch citizen
In Port Largo we are 10 Comercial
Fishing MAN Lobster.
In Golden cove we are 3
Comercial Fishing MAN Lobster
we ALL PATRO ^{LARGO} _{KEY} pick up traps
From 7 in the morning to 4 in
the Afternoon.
When we ALL see somebody
molesting our trap, AND SPEARFISHING
AND distroy our Reef. we dont have
ANY number to CALL.
→ in the back

We need more MARINE CENTER
IN Key Largo.

STOP TAKING OUR SPACE TO FISH
You guys are moving US OUT

We ALL HAVE FAMILY TO
Support. This IS OUR LIFE,

We Look out one ANOTHER
we WANT the best FOR Key Largo
OUR BEAUTIFULL CITY.

We're FISHING MAN AND
we ALWAYS WILL.

PLEASE STOP TAKING
OUR SPACE TO FISH

we support

- 1) Ernie
- 2) Gary
- 3) Peter
- 4) Walter
- 5) MALVIN
- 6) Amauri

- 7) BILL
- 8) Scot
- 9) ADAM
- 10) Alex

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PUBLIC COMMENT

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Name: Andy FORBERG Organization: RECREATIONAL FISHERMAN
KCB FISHING & BOATING CLUB

Email: 

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TOPIC TO BE ADDRESSED

SPA DESIGN + EVALUATION

PUBLIC COMMENT

Please see ATTACHED

I am Andy Forberg. My family has been in Key Colony Beach 40 years and I have seen many unwelcome changes to the reef. But, I would rather look ahead to the next 40 years. Generally, I support the sanctuary and this committee's efforts to preserve and improve reef.

Using the best available science in these efforts is important and is often cited as guiding this committee. Here is some recent science on Marine Protected Areas for your consideration.

A recent study published in Nature found that, more often than not, marine-protected areas don't work as well as they could.

Researchers studied 87 marine-protected areas in 40 countries worldwide, and found that 59 percent of the areas were no better off than areas where fishing was allowed.

The reasons for failure varied, but they boiled down to this: Not all marine-protected areas are alike. Some allow fishing; others forbid it. Some are managed well; others are managed badly. Some are relatively intact; others have been left barren by generations of overfishing.

The researchers identified five essential characteristics of the most successful marine-protected areas:

1. These areas were designated "no take" (allowing no fishing whatsoever),
2. Their rules were well enforced,
3. They were more than 10 years old,
4. They were bigger than 100 square kilometers,
5. They were isolated by deep water or sand.

Compared with regular fished areas, the areas that had four or five of those attributes had a far richer variety of species, five times the biomass of large fish and 14 times the biomass of sharks, which are indicators of ecological health.

Most underachieving marine sanctuaries had only one or two of these magic factors, and thus “were not ecologically distinguishable from fished sites.”

Their results show that global conservation targets based on area alone will not optimize protection of marine biodiversity. More emphasis is needed on better MPA design, durable management and compliance to ensure that MPAs achieve their desired conservation value.

I am not convinced the marine protected areas proposed for the Keys have enough of the necessary attributes for success. I encourage you to do what you can with new rules given the constraints found in the Keys to protect the users and the reef.

25 March 2014

Dear Ecosystem Protection Working Group Member:

These comments are in response to your request for recommendations.

I am a PhD marine biologist, and have been diving and collecting marine organisms in the Upper Keys since 1956.

At this time, the areas off-limits to marine life harvest for aquarium (Pennekamp Park, Key large Marine Sanctuary, Everglades Park, and all Sanctuary Preservation Areas) are far more restricted than for food fishing. As such, there is very little area here where marine life fishing is allowed. Restricting the area further would cause a severe hardship to the fishermen.

Of far more importance to the ecology than fishing is the effect of lionfish on marine life. Marine protected areas protect lionfish. Since lionfish are seldom caught on fishing lines, fishing for them as a control method will not work. The only feasible way of harvesting them around coral areas is by diving for them. Diving for them is allowed with hand nets in SPAs, but no other organisms can be on board the boat. I assure you that going after only lionfish is not economically feasible.

If lionfish populations are not effectively controlled, their effect on the environment and all its creatures could be far worse than that of all fisheries combined. Ask Ladd Atkins of Reef, Inc. about the stomach contents of one lionfish that was analyzed.

Lionfishes are here to stay. We need to find out how to best protect the environment against them for the good of the ecology and the people who depend on it. More SPAs are not the answer. The Bahamas prohibits marine life fishing. How large is their lionfish population, and what effect has this had on commercial and sport fishing?

Another problem looming in the near future is the spread of Orange Cup Coral. This is an exotic stony coral that was first seen in Curacao in about the 1950s. The coral is now in the Florida Keys, growing profusely on artificial structures like sunken ships and the research habitat at Conch Reef. The coral has been reported as growing on natural bottom in the Gulf of Mexico, and there is a video of it growing on oyster shells.

This coral kills other corals. When it starts growing on natural reefs in the FKNMS, it could start killing the endangered staghorn and elkhorn corals. There is a scientific paper that describes a snail that feeds on the orange cup coral. This snail does not occur in the Caribbean. Could this snail, properly studied and then released at the appropriate time, control the orange cup coral before it becomes permanently established on the reefs? The time to find out how to control it before it starts spreading is NOW.

Unfortunately, Marine Protected Zones only control people. Lionfish and orange cup coral LOVE these zones. The working group needs to focus on how best to control these threats, for the good of the ecology.

Henry Feddern, PhD
Marine Biology





Rock, Sea